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The Columbian Star.

WASHINGTON CITY, SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 24, 1824.

[No. 17.]

The Columbian Star.

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* Profits of the work sacred to the cause of Gospel.

Communications.

For the Columbian Star.

NEWBORN, March 20, 1824.

MR. EDITOR.—It is easily conceded by all, that whoever may have been a subject of baptism in the primitive church, the manner in which it was administered was unquestionably the same as that now practised by Baptists. Concessions of this nature are generally known to have been made, and we, therefore, confidently expect them on our controversies, with those who differ from us; but more appears delectable than a mere knowledge that they have been made; for if an opponent were to ask "when, and where, and by whom was this conceded?" it would be necessary to state the names, and the words the conceders. I have never seen more than one collection of these concessions; and that in Dr. Newman's "Baptismal Immersion defended by Christians of all denominations; in a letter to a Pedobaptist." By William Newman, D. D.

The attestation of one notorious enemy in favour of a cause, is considered as equivalent to that of many friends." Hannah More, Character of Paul, vol. 1, p. 42.

Stepney, March 1, 1819

DEAR FRIEND, In a late conversation with you on the much-controverted subject of baptism, I received that with all your partiality for me, (which I acknowledge to be unmerited) you imagined my opinion to be novel, and singular, if not superstitious. Some of your observations were to this effect; "what signifies the mode? whether much water or little be used, it cannot make much difference." To dispute about the mode is trifling, and wasting precious time. "You are disposed to be satisfied with infant baptism as if it were of divine appointment, though our late worthy friend, the Rev. Samuel Palmer, of Hackney, has assured us, that 'there is nothing in the words of the institution, nor in any after-accounts of the administration of this rite, respecting the baptism of infants; there is not a single precept for, nor example of, this practice through the whole New Testament.'" And this is acknowledged too, as you have seen, by your friend Mr. Peter Edwards.

Permit me to suggest, that if I were to grant the divine right of infants to that ordinance, I should still maintain that you were not rightly baptized, and therefore, in fact, not baptized at all. I respect the piety of your excellent parents, and I entertain a cordial esteem for the minister by whose hand a few drops of water were so solemnly sprinkled on your face, when you were an unconscious infant. But how devoutly soever that transaction was performed, I cannot allow that it was in accordance with the precepts and precedents of holy writ; therefore I cannot allow that it was valid.

Many persons often say, "Oh, as to modes of baptism and forms of worship, what are they? They are but the paper and packthread of the parcel." Your piety, I am assured, would revolt from this statement.

Waving many other considerations, I invite your serious attention to the concessions of some distinguished men, relating to the manner of baptizing; which must, I think, weigh much in your estimation.

Omitting the Fathers, and the Schoolmen, let us begin with Roman Catholic Divines. I shall place at the head of them

Pope Benedict XIII. The anonymous author of "Le Baptême retabli" (printed in 1736) gives the following anecdote of this Pontiff: "Pope Benedict XIII, having occasion more than once to baptize adult persons, and among others nine at one time, Jews and Turks, he instructed them himself, and after that he immersed them. With a view to every thing being performed in its

natural and proper order, he made use of the ancient rituals; which so much displeased the Cardinals, that not one of them would assist at the ceremony. This is what I myself, as well as others, have read under the article ROME, in the public newspapers."—Part 2, p. 92. In Booth, volume 1, p. 122.

Bossuet, Bishop of Meaux, declares, that 'to baptize signifies to plunge, as is granted by all the world.' Again: 'It is certain that St. John the Baptist baptized no other way than by dipping—and his example shows that to baptize a great number of people, those places were chosen where there was a great deal of water.' In Stennett's answer to Russen, p. 174, &c. 'We are able to make it appear,' says Bossuet, 'by the acts of Councils, and by the ancient rituals, that for 1300 years baptism was thus administered, as far as was possible, throughout the whole church.'—In Booth, volume 1, p. 210.

Abbe Houtteville says, 'John plunged into Jordan those who came to his baptism.'—La Religion Chretienne, &c. tom. 2, p. 12.

In the next place turn your eyes for a moment to the Greek church—and all the Oriental churches.

Here I shall only refer you to the testimony of

Dr. Wall, who says, 'the Greek church, in all the branches of it, does still use immersion.' And in the same page he remarks, 'all other Christians in the world, who never owned the Pope's usurped power, do, and ever did, dip their infants in the ordinary use.'—Hist. of Inf. Bap., part 2, ch. 9, p. 309, first ed.*

The British and Foreign Reformers, you will readily grant, deserve to be heard on this question.

Luther says, 'It cannot be proved by the sacred scriptures, that infant baptism was instituted by Christ, or begun by the first Christians after the Apostles.'—The term baptism is a Greek word. It may be rendered a dipping, when we dip something in water that it may be entirely covered with water. And though that custom be quite abolished among the generality, (for neither do they entirely dip children, but only sprinkle them with a little water) nevertheless they ought to be wholly immersed, and presently to be drawn out again. For the etymology of the word seems to require it.

You may see this and many other concessions in the elaborate work of the venerable Abraham Booth, entitled 'Pedobaptism examined,' &c. vol. 2, p. 5, and vol. 1, p. 50. There are several interesting passages of the same description in the admirable 'Sermons on Baptism,' by Mr. Dore, printed in 1808.

Calvin, a much more profound scholar than Luther, has assured us, that 'the word baptize signifies to immerse; and the rite of immersion was observed by the ancient church.' Instit. 1. 4. c. 15, 19. Again: 'From these words [John iii. 23] it may be inferred that baptism was administered by John and Christ, by plunging the whole body under water.' Comment. in loc. (See Mr. Dore's sermons on baptism, p. 36.)

Beza, the learned colleague and successor of Calvin, remarks, that 'Christ commanded us to be baptized, by which word it is certain immersion is signified.'—Epist. 2. ad Thom. Tilium, in Booth, vol. 1, p. 46.

Among the British Reformers, you will no doubt assign a distinguished place to

Wickliffe: 'Fadir Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he dippe the end of his finger in water to kepe my tounge: for I am tormetted in this flame.' Luke xvi. 24. See also Danvers, p. 283, second edition.

The Compilers of the Book of Common Prayer, It appears from the Book of Common Prayer, that the Rubric requires the child to be dipped in the font, unless the Priest be informed that on account of weakness the child cannot bear it. The large dimensions of baptismal fonts in the parish churches make it evident, that immersion was accounted necessary.

In the Catechism, when the minister asks, 'what is the outward, visible, sign or form in baptism?' the answer is, 'water: wherein the person is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' To this I shall add, that King James' translators, the authors of our common version, when the ordinance was out of sight, have translated two words of the same root, in our favour. Of this remark you may see six proofs in Matthew xxvi. 23, Mark xvi. 20, Luke xvi. 24, John xiii. 26, (twice) Rev. xix. 13.

Tyndal was the first man that printed the New Testament in English, and he became a martyr in that great cause. He says, when speaking of baptism, 'the plunging into the water signifieth that we die and are buried with Christ, as concerning the old life of sin, which is Adam; and the pulling out again signifieth that we rise again with Christ in a new life.'—In Booth's Defence of Pedobaptism Ex. p. 252.

Frith, (burnt in Smithfield, 1553.) 'The signe in baptisme is the plunging downe in the materiall water and lifyng up agayne, by the which, as by an outward badge, we are known to be of the number of them which professe Christ to be theyr Redemer and Saviour.'—Works, p. 91.

Dr. Wall, speaking of immersion as the practice of the first Christians, remarks: 'this is so plain and clear by an infinite number of passages, that as one cannot but pity the weak endeavours of such Pedobaptists as would maintain the negative of it: so also we ought to disown and show a dislike of the profane scoffs which some people give to the English Anti-pedobaptists merely for their use of dipping.' p. 291.

* *μικρῶν, βαπτίς.*

Apb. Cranmer. 'The dipping into the water doth betoken that the old Adam, with all his sin and evil lusts, ought to be drowned and killed by daily contrition and repentance.'—In Robinson's History of Baptism, p. 443.

Let us now proceed to Church of England divines of a later period.

Apb. Tillotson. 'Anciently, those who were baptized, put off their garments which signified the putting off the body of sin; and were immersed and buried in the water, to represent their death to sin; and then did rise up again out of the water, to signify their entrance upon a new life.' And to these customs the Apostle alludes, Rom. vi. 2—6, Gal. iii. 27.—Works, vol. 1, Sermon 7, p. 179, 8vo. ed.

Apb. Secker. 'Burying, as it were, the person baptized in the water, and raising him out of it again, without question was anciently the more usual method, on account of which St. Paul speaks of baptism as representing both the death and burial and the resurrection of Christ.'—Lectures on the Catechism, sect. 35.

There have been, also, as you well know, some illustrious men in the church of Ireland; the following are instances:

Apb. Usher, in answer to the question, 'what is the second sacramental action?' replies, 'the action of washing, that is, of applying the sacramental water unto the party to be baptized; dipping or dipping him into it, or sprinkling him with it, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.'—Body of Divinity, 4th edition, p. 412.

Apb. Newcome. 'Our Lord instituted baptism as a perpetual rite of initiation into his church. Immersion in water betokens burial with Christ into death, &c. &c. Again: 'But still such as were overwhelmed with great temporal evils might be said to be baptized with a like baptism.' Matt. xx. 23. In a note he adds, 'see Bishop Pearce in loco.' One of the references in Wesseling's note on Diodorus Siculus, is, *τὴ συνήθειαν βαπτισμοῦ*. I have nothing to add to the references but Pindar. *Ποδ. β. 145. Αβαπτιστος εἰμι φιλῶς αὖ γὰρ ἔκαστ' ἀλμυρῶν.* Immersabilis sum, suberis instar, super septum maris salis. Upon which the Scholiast says, *εἰς καὶ κατὰ τὴν αἰὶν κατὰ τοὺς ἀβαπτιστοὺς εἰμι.* Sic et ego aliorum accusacionibus mergi non possum. And Horace may have imitated this passage, where he says, that Ulysses

Aspera multa Pertulit, adversis rerum immersabilis undis.—*Epist. lib. i. ii. 21—22.*

Observations on our Lord's conduct, &c. p. 162, 197, 2d ed.

Now let me direct your attention to the Kirk of Scotland. And here I have the satisfaction of producing a name of the very highest respectability among Biblical critics, that of

Dr. Campbell. 'The word *βαπτίζω* both in sacred writers and classical, signifies to dip, to plunge, to immerse; and was rendered by Tertullian, the oldest of the Latin fathers, *tingere*, the term used for dyeing cloth; which was by immersion.'—Four Gospels, Matt. iv. 11. See his note on that place. See also his Lectures on Syst. Theol. p. 480.

If we take leave of national churches and churchmen, and look among the Dissenters, we shall naturally think first of the Presbyterians; among whom we shall find

Mr. Baxter. 'In our baptism, we are dipped under the water, as signifying our covenant profession, that as He was buried for sin, we were dead and buried to sin.'—On Romans vi. 4.—In Booth, volume 1, p. 149.

Dr. Priestley. His opinion is thus expressed: 'this rite appears to have been generally, though probably not always, performed by dipping the whole body in water. It is certain that in early times there is no particular mention made of any person being baptized by sprinkling only, or a partial application of water to the body.'—Hist. Corrupt. vol. 2, p. 66—67.

In the denomination of Independents, we shall see among those whose names will always be dear to the whole Christian church,

Dr. Owen. He says, 'though the original and natural signification of the word *βαπτίζω* imports to dip, to plunge, to die; yet it also signifies to wash or cleanse.'—In Dr. Ridgley's Bod. Div. Quest. 166. p. 608. Note.

Dr. Watts. 'The Greek word *βαπτίζω* signifies to wash any thing, properly by water coming over it.'—Sermon on Christian baptism at Bury-street.

This most amiable man has taken considerable pains, in the sermon above-mentioned, to prove that the Greek word signifies 'washing a thing in general by water coming over it, and not always dipping.'

Dr. Doddridge. 'It seems the part of candour to confess, that here (Rom. vi. 4.) is an allusion to the manner of baptizing by immersion, as most usual in those early times.'—Luke xii. 50, he thus paraphrases: 'I have, indeed, a most dreadful baptism to be baptized with, and know that I shall shortly be bathed, as it were, in blood, and plunged in the most overwhelming distress.'

If we appeal to the Methodists, both Calvinistic and Arminian, it may suffice to cite the opinions of their great leaders, which will appear from the following short extracts:

* Tertullian's words are 'homo in aqua demissus, et inter pauca verba tinctus.' De baptismo, cap. 2. In Robinson's Hist. of Baptism, p. 6.

George Whitfield. 'It is certain that in the words of our text (Rom. vi. 3—4) there is an allusion to the manner of baptism, which was by immersion; which our own church allows, and insists upon it that children should be immersed in water, unless those who bring the children to be baptized, assure the minister that they cannot bear the plunging.'—Eighteen Sermons, p. 297.

John Wesley. 'Mary Welsh, aged eleven days, was baptized according to the custom of the first church, and the rule of the Church of England, by immersion. The child was ill then, but recovered from that hour.'—Journal from his embarking for Georgia, p. 11. In his note on Rom. vi. 4, on the words 'buried with him,' he says 'alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.'

If you wish to have the judgment of our impartial friends, the Quakers, their famous apologist speaks, as far as I know, the sentiments of all.

Robert Barclay. 'As to the baptism of infants, it is a mere human tradition, for which neither precept nor practice is to be found in all the Scripture.—*βαπτίζω* signifies immergo, that is, to plunge and dip in; and that was the proper use of water baptism among the Jews, and also by John, and the primitive Christians who used it. Whereas our adversaries, for the most part, only sprinkle a little water upon the forehead, which doth not at all answer to the word baptism.'—Apology, Prop. 12.

Shall I still further request the favour of you to look into the writings of foreign divines? Those of France, Switzerland, Holland, and Germany, are highly worthy of attention. I will extract only a few instances, as a specimen of what might easily be laid before you in great abundance.

Claude, 'in his baptism, he [Jesus] is plunged in the water.'—Essay on the Comp. of Sermon, vol. 1, p. 272, Robinson's ed. The original words are: 'Dans son baptême il est plongé dans l'eau.'—Œuvres Posthumes, tom. 1, p. 264.

Witsius. 'It cannot be denied that the native signification of the word *βαπτίζω* and *βαπτισμός*, is to plunge, to dip.'—Œcon. Fœd. lib. 4, cap. 16, § 13.

Salmasius. 'Baptism is immersion; and was administered in ancient times, according to the force and meaning of the word. Now it is only rantism, or sprinkling; not immersion, or dipping.'—In Booth's Pedob. Ex. vol. 1, p. 44.

Budeus. 'The words *βαπτίζω* and *βαπτισμός* are not to be interpreted of aspersion, but always of immersion.'—Theo. Dogmat. lib. 5, c. 1, § 5.

Venema. 'It is without controversy that baptism in the primitive church was administered by immersion into water, and not by sprinkling.'—Hist. Eccles. In Booth, vol. 1, p. 212.

Vitringa. 'The act of baptizing is the immersion of believers in water. This expresses the force of the word. Thus also it was performed by Christ and His apostles.'—In Booth, vol. 1, p. 74.

Le Clerc. 'At that time came John the baptizer—a man that plunged in water those who testified an acknowledgment of his divine mission, and were desirous of leading a new life.'—On Matt. iii. 1.

Saurin. 'The ceremony of wholly immersing in water when we were baptized, signified that we died to sin; and that of raising us again from our immersion, signified that we would no more return to those disorderly practices in which we lived before our conversion to Christianity.'—Sermons, vol. 10, p. 44.

Grotius. 'An immersion of the whole body in water, so that it is no longer beheld, bears an image of that burial which is given to the dead.'—Comment. Rom. vi. 4.

Alting (James). 'Formerly in the Christian church they put on Christ, being immersed.'—Opera, tom. 4, p. 242. See his Comment. Heb. ix. 10.

Daille. 'It was a custom heretofore in the ancient church, to plunge those they baptized over head and ears in the water.'—This is still the practice both of the Greek and the Russian church, even at this very day.'—Right use of the Fathers, book 2, p. 148.

Mosheim. 'Those adult persons that desire to be baptized (among the Collegiants) receive the sacrament of baptism according to the ancient and primitive manner of celebrating that institution, even by immersion.'—Ecc. Hist. Cent. 17, sect. 2, part 2, ch. 7, § 1.

Jurieu. 'The ancients used to plunge persons into the water, calling on the adorable Trinity.'—In Dr. Gale's Reflect. on Dr. Wall's

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oral courage, the self-denial, and single
of purpose, which induce men to resign
the comforts, that the world in its hap
est regions can bestow, and deliberately
to pass their days in these abodes of
darkness, and danger and privation, are
ought to enlist the sympathy of the be
volent heart, to excite a deep interest in
their welfare, and inspire an earnest wish
at they may have the consolation of suc
cess in the work of piety and goodness to
which they are devoted."

COLUMBIAN COLLEGE.

The following report was made to the
State of the United States, on the 19th in
stant, accompanied by a bill, which prop
oses for a transfer to the Trustees of the
College, of public property in this District
the amount of about \$30,000.

Mr. Barbour, from the Committee on the
District of Columbia, to whom was refer
red the memorial of the Trustees of the
Columbian College,

reported:

"That they have given to this subject the
consideration which its importance claimed.
The object of the memorial is to obtain pe
niary aid, to a small amount, to the Co
lumbian College, in this District, whose
prosperity, in an essential degree, depends
on the success of the application. The
City of a central literary establishment
has been so often presented to Congress, by
the long list of illustrious worthies who
have filled the Presidential chair, that the
committee are relieved from the necessity
adding any remarks of their own on this
subject. They content themselves by refer
ring to the following extracts from commu
nications made in a series of years, by suc
cessive Presidents, to Congress. President
Washington, in his message of December,
1796, in reference to such an establishment,
uses the following remark: "Among the
advantages to such an institution, the assimila
tion of the principles, opinions, and manners,
of our countrymen, by the common educa
tion of our youth from every quarter, well
deserves attention. The more homogene
ous our citizens can be made in these par
ticulars, the greater will be our prospect of
permanent union."

President Madison, in his message of De
cember, 1810, on this subject, uses the fol
lowing language: "Whilst it is universally
admitted that a well instructed people alone
can be a permanently free people; and
whilst it is evident that the means of diffu
sion of improving useful knowledge, form so
small a portion of the expenditures for na
tional purposes, I cannot presume it to be
reasonable to invite your attention to the
advantages of superadding to the means of
education, provided by the several states, a
university of learning, instituted by the na
tional legislature, within the limits of their
exclusive jurisdiction, the expense of which
might be defrayed, or re-imbursed out of
the vacant grounds which have accrued to
the nation within those limits."

"Such an institution, though local in its legal charac
ter, would be universal in its beneficial ef
fects. By enlightening the opinions; by ex
tending the patriotism; and by assimilating
the principles, the sentiments, and the man
ners of those who might resort to this tem
ple of science, to be re-distributed, in due
time, through every part of the community;
sources of jealousy and prejudice would be
diminished; the features of national char
acter would be multiplied, and greater
tendency given to social harmony. But, above
all, a well constituted seminary, in the
centre of the nation, is recommended by
consideration, that the additional in
struction emanating from it would con
tribute not less to strengthen the founda
tions, than to adorn the structure of
a free and happy system of government."

These recommendations, from causes
whose enumeration is now unnecessary, if,
indeed, it were practicable, failed in their
effect. At length a few enterprising and
patriotic individuals attempted to achieve
voluntary donations, that which it had
been supposed could be effected only by
the power of Congress.

Their efforts were crowned with distin
guished success. One individual in particu
lar, (and it is but an act of justice he should
be named,) the Rev. Luther Rice, with an
unwearied industry and an unyielding per
severance, which prompted him to traverse
every part of the Union in pursuit of aid to
this beneficent object, contributed principal
to that success.

The funds thus acquired were faithfully
and judiciously applied to that object. An
advantageous site was procured and suita
ble buildings erected for the accommodation
of 100 students. Application was made to
Congress for an act of incorporation, which
passed, February 9, 1821. This, however,
as all the aid which Congress dispensed,
the accompanying document shows that
there have been expended on this institution
\$40,000; \$50,000 only have been procured;
and, as a consequence, the institution is em
barrassed with a debt to the amount of
\$10,000. By reference to the same docu
ment, it appears that, although the College
commenced its operation so late as January,
22, it has already 93 students, under the
direction of a faculty highly respectable for
literary attainments.

The embarrassments, resulting from the
present considerable difficulties, and
reason, if not entire ruin, greatly to re
ard its successful progress.

Under these circumstances, the individ
uals who have thus generously devoted them
selves to the promotion of this establish
ment, and who have disinterestedly pledged
their independence upon the success of the
college, present themselves to Congress,
in view to obtain their protection by a
small pecuniary grant; Congress being the
legislative body they can address, as they
are denied by their locality, all aid
on any particular state.

The committee, in reviewing the pecu
liar circumstances which characterize the
history of this establishment, its progress,
and the great benefits it promises to society,
are of opinion that the application is reason
able. It cannot be doubted, had such an
establishment grown up, under similar cir
cumstances, in either of the states, it would
receive the helping hand of its legislature.
Congress stands in the same relation to
this establishment, from its exclusive
power of legislation within the District. It
may be objected, however, that the right of
Congress to appropriate the funds of the
College to a purpose in part local, however

national its effects, is questionable. The
committee intentionally forbear to discuss
this question, as upon it a difference of op
inion is believed to exist, and as its decision
is not necessary to the successful result of
the proposed measure.

In the extract from the message of Presi
dent Madison, Congress is referred to a
fund, from which pecuniary aid may be de
rived, free from all objections, the public
property within the District. This prop
erty was granted by the original proprie
tors, on the condition that its avails should
be appropriated to the improvement of the
city. It appears by reference to a report
prepared on this subject, that with sales al
ready effected, and a reasonable estimate
on the remainder, the amount of this prop
erty is equal to \$2,571,016; of this there
has been expended on the public buildings
\$1,214,292, leaving a balance in favour of
the District of \$1,356,724; from this esti
mate are excluded the expenses of rebuild
ing, which cannot, with justice, be charged
to this fund, as thereby a national misfor
tune would be made to fall exclusively on
the people of Washington, instead of the
nation at large. If from this last sum be
deducted what has been expended on the
central building, and on all other public im
provements in the city, equal to \$1,025,916,
there would still be a balance in favour of
the District of \$330,808. In addition to the
high authority already alluded to, the com
mittee beg leave to refer to the course uni
formly adopted in all the territories. By
reference to the various acts of Congress, it
will be seen that a large portion of the pub
lic lands has been set apart for the pur
poses of education. Without a specification
they content themselves by saying that 1-36th
part of the whole land of the United States
has been appropriated to this purpose.

The committee, therefore, beg leave
to report a bill dispensing aid, to a limited
extent, to the Columbian College. They
have been induced to grant the debts refer
red to in the bill, for two reasons. The one
that they are within the District; and the
other, that the larger debt, from the ques
tionable condition of the debtors, will be dif
ficult to collect. Its collection, or arrange
ment, may, nevertheless, be made available
to some extent, when transferred to the
Trustees of the College. The debt from
the estate of Mr. Lee is for property sold
within the District.

BEAUTIFUL COMPARISON.

Mr. Clay, in his great Speech on the
Tariff, introduced the following illustration.
It is a striking picture, sketched by the
hand of a master. The scene, and the
genius which has thus described it, are
alike American. We object to one word
only, which is low, and at best technical:

"The difference between a nation with
and without the arts, may be conceived, by
the difference between a keel-boat and a
steam-boat, combating the rapid torrent of
the Mississippi. How slowly does the for
mer ascend, hugging the sinuosities of the
shore, pushed on by her hardy and exposed
crew, now throwing themselves in vigor
ous concert on their oars, and then seizing
the pendent boughs of over-hanging trees;
she seems hardly to move; and her scanty
cargo is scarcely worth the transportation!
With what ease is she not passed by the
steam-boat, laden with the riches of all
quarters of the world, with a crowd of gay,
cheerful, and protected passengers, now
dashing into the midst of the current, or
gliding through the eddies near the shore!
Nature herself seems to survey, with aston
ishment, the passing wonder, and, in silent
submission, reluctantly to own the magnifi
cent triumphs, in her own vast dominion,
of Fulton's immortal genius!"

MR. CLAY'S OPINION OF BONAPARTE.

Mr. Clay, in his speech on the Tariff, re
ferred to Bonaparte, and called him

"The master spirit of the age—that extra
ordinary man, who has thrown the Alexan
ders and the Caesars in finitely farther behind
him than they stood in advance of the most
eminent of their predecessors—that singular
man, who, whether he was seated on his im
perial throne, deciding the fate of nations,
and allotting kingdoms to the members of
his family, with the same composure, if not
with the same affection, as that with which
a Virginia father divides his plantations
among his children, or on the miserable
rock of St. Helena, to which he was con
demned by the cruelty and the injustice of
his unworthy victors, is equally an object
of the most intense admiration. He appears
to have comprehended, with the rapidity of
intuition, the true interests of a state, and
to have been able, by the turn of a single
expression, to develop the secret springs of
the policy of cabinets."

Extract of a letter to the publisher of the
Star, dated
"RUSSELLVILLE, (Ken.) April 2.

"DEAR BROTHER,—Your letter of the
15th ult. came to hand yesterday morning.
Your design of publishing the Baptist Al
manac meets my entire approbation. My
feeble efforts to aid you in this undertaking
shall be afforded. I believe a great many
copies might be sold in this part of our
State.

With regard to the Tract Society, I can
not say what would be the patronage it
would receive here. I am, as an individual,
convinced of its great utility, and would be
glad to see it encouraged every where. But
there is a backwardness among professors
in engaging in any thing that requires so
much close and systematic attention. We
are disposed to engage with excessive zeal,
frequently, in the formation of benevolent
institutions, but if immediate good does not
result, we are too apt to give them up as
fruitless. This I have seen verified in more
than one instance. If we felt more forcibly
the command, "Sow thy seed in the morn
ing, and in the evening withhold not thy
hand," &c. we should engage with more
zeal and ardour in systematic acts of bene
volence.

The churches in this place have recent
ly been visited by refreshing showers of
grace. About 25 have been added to the
Methodists, and 13 to the Baptist church.
Four or five also, to the Cumberland Pres
byterians. The work commenced about
the first of February, and lasted only about
three or four weeks. Nothing very remark
able attended it, except that there was no
opposition discovered on the part of the in

religious. It is cause of great rejoicing
when the Lord visits this sinful world in a
way of mercy; and I would on this occasion
say—the Lord has done great things for us,
whereof we are glad."

For the Columbian Star.
SCOTT'S FAMILY BIBLE.

Mr. Wm. W. Woodward, a respectable
and enterprising bookseller of Philadelphia,
to whom the lovers of Christian literature
are indebted for many of the best standard
American editions of the writings of ortho
dox divines, has recently issued proposals
for publishing a miniature edition of the
Rev. Thomas Scott's excellent Commentary,
in six volumes, to contain all the notes and
practical observations, "from the last Lon
don standard edition."

Mr. Woodward has offered this work
extremely low; and I hope an ample sub
scription list will reward his unwearied ef
forts to accommodate the religious com
munity. His terms, which are herewith sent,
I would thank you to insert in your widely
circulating paper; as, I doubt not, many of
your readers will be glad to avail themselves
of the present opportunity to purchase, at a
low rate, the deservedly popular Commenta
ry of Dr. Scott.

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

1. The work will be printed on a beau
tiful paper, in six neat volumes, to contain
about seven hundred pages, and will be de
livered to subscribers in boards, at \$1 75—
in sheep—and in calf \$2 50, per volume.

2. Volumes to be delivered successively
in three months, and to be paid for on de
livery.

3. Those who procure four subscribers,
and become responsible for payment, will
be entitled to a fifth copy gratis, and for a
larger number a similar allowance.

4. W. W. W. will publish a few copies
on a very superior quality of paper, at three
dollars per volume, in neat ornamented calf
—and at four dollars per volume in moroc
co, also to be paid on delivery. Subscrip
tion papers will be forwarded to those who
wish them; letters addressed to the pub
lisher must be post paid.

LITERARY.

American Annual Register.—The pros
pectus of a new periodical work, to be call
ed the American Annual Register of History
and Politics, has been issued, says the
Boston Telegraph, by Messrs. Cummings,
Hilliard & Co. of this city. One volume of
about 900 pages is to be published each
year, in semi-annual numbers, at the price
of \$5. Part first is to contain a history of
the United States for the year; embrac
ing an account of all events of national im
portance, as well as those relating to par
ticular States—a history of the several in
dependent States of America South of the
United States, for the year; viz. Mexico,
Colombia, Buenos Ayres, Chili, Peru, and
Brazil—and a history of the several States of
Europe for the year.

The second part will contain notices of
important and curious events, not forming a
part of the general historical narrative.
The appendix will be occupied with im
portant state papers, remarkable trials and
law cases, statistical tables, notices of in
ventions and discoveries, &c. It is under
stood that the work is to be edited by Prof.
Everett, of Cambridge.

Messrs. Cummings, Hilliard & Co. pro
pose likewise to publish a literary period
ical work, to be entitled the United States'
Literary Gazette. It is to be published in
a quarto form, two numbers in each month.
Price \$5 per annum. It is expected the
first number will make its appearance the
present month, edited by Theophilus Par
sons, Esq.

A work is now publishing at Weimar, in
Germany, says the New-York Commer
cial Advertiser, specimen pages of which
have been forwarded to this country, with
a view to engage the attention of authors and
naturalists in the United States to the im
portant objects of the work, who might con
tribute articles and furnish information which
is new, in the wide range of natural science.
It is conducted by scientific gentlemen of the
first respectability, and the articles are not
confined to German names, but are extend
ed to almost every known country. Three
volumes are to issue from the press yearly,
and the work will probably be extended to
12 volumes. Eight hundred engravings are
completed. It will be a treasure, and a
complete encyclopaedia of natural history,
and we indulge a hope that it will receive
liberal contributions from naturalists of this
country.

Eighteenth Congress.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

MONDAY, April 19.

Mr. Barbour, from the Committee on the
District of Columbia, reported a bill "for
the relief of the Columbian College in the
District of Columbia," which was read, and
passed to a second reading.

On motion of Mr. Smith, the Committee
on Finance was discharged from the further
consideration of a letter from the Artist en
gaged to prepare an allegorical design for a
clock for the Senate, requesting a further
appropriation for that purpose. The same
Committee was also discharged from the
memorial of Thomas Law and others, of the
District of Columbia, praying for the estab
lishment of a National Currency.

On motion of Mr. Macon, the rule by
which the Senate determined to adjourn,
on each week, from Friday to the next Monday,
was rescinded.

The bill "to amend the several acts im
posing duties on imports," was received
from the House of Representatives and
read.

On motion of Mr. Macon, the resolution
proposed by him, some days since, fixing a
time for closing the present session of Con
gress, was taken up for consideration; and
after some debate on the subject, the blank
was filled with "the 15th day of May;" it
was then passed to be engrossed and read a
third time.

The bill "in addition to the acts relative

to the election of President and Vice Presi
dent of the United States," was read the
third time, PASSED, and sent to the House
for concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Lanman, the Senate
then proceeded to the consideration of Ex
ecutive business; and, after about two hours,
the doors were opened, and the Senate
Adjourned.

TUESDAY, April 20.

Mr. Van Dyke presented a communica
tion from the President and Directors
of the Delaware Canal Company. Refer
red to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

The bill "to amend the several acts for
imposing duties on imports," was read a se
cond time, and referred to the Committee
on Commerce and Manufactures.

The joint resolution, fixing the 15th day
of May next, for the adjournment of the
present session of Congress, was read the
third time. The resolution was PASSED,
and sent to the other House for concurren
ce.

On motion of Mr. Lloyd, of Maryland,
the Senate, as in Committee of the whole,
proceeded to consider the bill "supplemen
tary to an act entitled An act to incorporate
the Columbia Turnpike Company, in the
District of Columbia." Mr. King, of Ala
bama, was called to the chair. This bill gives
the company power to raise its tolls. It was
reported to the Senate, without amendment,
and passed to be engrossed and read the third
time.

The bill reported by the Committee on the
Militia, "more effectually to provide for
the national defence, by establishing a uni
form Militia throughout the United States,
and providing for the discipline thereof,"
was taken up for consideration; and, on mo
tion of Mr. Knight, the bill was ordered to
lie on the table.

The bill from the House of Representa
tives "to provide for the necessary surveys
for roads and canals," was taken up for con
sideration in Committee of the whole. The
question was, upon adopting an amendment,
heretofore postponed by Mr. Benton, Mr. B.
not being present, the bill, on motion of Mr.
Eaton, was ordered to lie on the table.

The bill reported by the Judiciary Com
mittee "to provide for the settlement of
certain pecuniary claims against the United
States," was then taken up for consideration,
in Committee of the whole. The bill was
reported to the Senate; and, after some dis
cussion, was ordered to be engrossed and read
the third time.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 21.

Mr. Dickinson, on behalf of the Commit
tee on Commerce and Manufactures, to
whom was referred the bill "to amend the
several acts for imposing duties on imports,"
requested permission for the committee to
sit upon that subject during the sessions of
the Senate. Leave was refused.

On motion of Mr. Lloyd, of Maryland, the
Committee on the District of Columbia was
discharged from the further consideration of
the memorial of the town of Alexandria,
praying the retrocession of that town to the
state of Virginia.

A message was received from the House
of Representatives, informing that the
House had appointed a committee, to be
joined by a committee on the part of the
Senate, to report what business is necessary
to be acted upon at the present session; and,
also, at what time the two Houses may ad
journ. The resolution had three several
readings; and, on motion of Mr. King of
New-York the Senate concurred in the resolu
tion, and agreed to join the Committee.

The bill from the House of Representa
tives, "to provide for making surveys for
roads and canals" was then taken up for
consideration, in committee of the whole.

The question was on an entire new bill, of
fereed as an amendment, by Mr. Benton.
Mr. Benton, of Ohio, opposed the amend
ment, and advocated the original bill. Mr.
Holmes, of Maine, spoke in opposition to the
proposed amendment, and to the bill itself.
Before he had concluded his speech, the
Senate

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 22.

SURVEYS FOR ROADS AND CANALS.

The Senate then resumed the unfinished
business of yesterday, being the considera
tion, in committee of the whole, of the bill
from the House of Representatives, "to pro
vide the necessary surveys for roads and
canals," together with a new bill, proposed
by Mr. Benton, as a substitute for that bill.
Mr. Barbour was called to the chair. Mr.
Holmes again took the floor, and concluded
the remarks he commenced yesterday. Sev
eral other gentlemen followed. The ques
tion on striking out the original bill was then
taken, and decided in the negative; ayes,
21, noes, 21.

FRIDAY, April 23.

The Senate resumed the consideration of
the bill "to provide for obtaining the nec
essary surveys, plans, and estimates, for
Roads and Canals;" and, after considera
ble discussion, passed the bill to a third
reading;—ayes, 25, noes, 21.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

MONDAY, April 19.

The bill from the Senate "for enclosing
the burying ground of Christ church,
Washington Parish," was referred.

On motion of Mr. McLane, the previous
orders of the day were dispensed with, and
the House went into Committee of the
Whole, on the bill making appropriations
for completing the several fortifications of
the United States. Mr. Lathrop, in the
Chair. The Committee then reported the
bill to the House.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY, April 20.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, of New-York,
it was

Resolved, That a Committee be appoint
ed on the part of this House, to join such
Committee as may be associated by the Se
nate, to examine and report what business
ought to be acted upon at the present ses
sion; and, also, at what time the session
may be closed by the adjournment of

the two Houses. A Committee of five was
accordingly ordered to be appointed on the
part of this House.

Mr. Cushman offered the following:
"Resolved, That the Committee of
Ways and Means be instructed to inquire
into the expediency of laying a duty on Stills,
or on spirits distilled from foreign and do
mestic materials within the United States."

The question being put on its considera
tion, it was decided in the negative—33
members only rising in favour of it.

The SPEAKER, by leave, presented the
memorial of Amelia Eugenia de la Rue,
heirress of M. De Beaumarchais, in relation
to her claim for re-payment of monies ad
vanced by her late father for the service of
the United States.

The bill "making appropriations for
erecting fortifications," was ordered to be
engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 21.

Mr. Newton, from the Committee on
Commerce, made a report against amend
ing the law so as to admit vessels to navigate
canals without enrolment or license, or pay
ment of tonnage duties; in which the
House concurred.

The engrossed bill making appropriat
ions for the fortifications of the United
States, was read a third time, PASSED, and
sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The joint resolution from the Senate, fix
ing a time for the adjournment of Congress
—15th May next—was twice read, and re
ferred to the Joint Committee yesterday ap
pointed on the part of this House to deter
mine on what business shall be taken up at
the present session, and at what time the
two Houses shall adjourn.

The bill from the Senate, "in addition
to the acts relative to the election of Presi
dent and Vice President of the United
States;" was twice read and referred.

Poetry.

From an English Paper.
A NIGHT ON THE ALPS.

Come, golden evening! In the west
Enthroned the storm-dispelling sun,
And let the triple rainbow rest
O'er all the mountain tops: 'tis done,
The tempest ceases: bold and bright
The rainbow shoots from hill to hill;
Down sinks the sun: but with his light,
Mont Blanc is lovely still.

There take thy stand, my spirit: spread
The world of shadows at thy feet;
And mark, how calmly over head,
The stars, like saints in glory meet:
— While, hid in solitude sublime,
Methinks I muse on nature's tomb,
And hear the passing foot of Time
Step through the passing gloom.

All in a moment, crash on crash,
From precipice to precipice,
An avalanche's ruins dash
Down to the nethermost abyss.
Invisible; the ear alone
Pursues the uproar till it dies;
Echo to echo, groan for groan,
From deep to deep, replies.

Silence again the darkness seals,
Darkness that may be felt; but soon
The silver-clouded east reveals
The midnight spectre of the moon.
In half-eclipse she lifts her horn
Yet o'er the host of heaven supreme,
Brings the faint semblance of a morn,
With her awakening beam.

Ah! at her touch, these Alpine heights,
Unreal mockeries appear:
With blacker shadows, ghastlier lights,
Emerging as she climbs the sphere;
A crowd of apparitions pale!
I hold my breath in chill suspense,
— They seem so exquisitely frail—
Lest they should vanish hence.

I breathe again, I freely breathe;
These, Leman's Lake, once more I trace,
Like Dian's crescent, far beneath,
And beautiful as Dian's face;
Pride of the land that gave me birth!
All that thy waves reflect I love,
When heaven itself brought down to earth,
Looks fairer than above.

Safe on thy banks again I stray;
The trance of poetry is o'er,
And I am here at dawn of day,
Gazing on mountains as before;
Where all the strange mutations wrought
Were magic fears of my own mind;
For, in that fairy land of thought,
Whate'er I seek I find.

Yet O ye everlasting hills!
Temples of God, not made with hands,
Whose word performs whate'er He wills,
Whose word, though ye shall perish, stands!
Can there be eyes that look on you,
'Till tears of rapture make them dim,
Yet, in such works, no Maker view—
Nor lose the works in Him?

By me, when I behold him not,
Or love Him not when I behold,
Be all, that e'er I knew, forgot;
My pulse stand still, my heart grow cold;
Transform'd to ice, 'twixt earth and sky,
On yonder cliff my shape be seen,
That all may ask, though none reply,
What my offence hath been!

Miscellany.

From the North-American Review.
MAL'ARIA OF ROME.
(Continued.)

How long it has been unhealthy, from the causes that have now depopulated above a thousand square miles of fruitful territory, it is not easy to determine. The neighbourhood of Rome, according to Livy's account, was not in a good reputation above three centuries before the Christian era. Strabo speaks of Lanuvium and Antium; and Seneca of Ardea, as unhealthy; and that the city itself was partially so, we may fairly infer from the beautiful descriptions in Horace, and the constant allusions in Suetonius, Juvenal and Tibullus, to the villas that were scattered from the hills of Tivoli to Baja and Caprea, where the luxurious patricians, and their more luxurious Emperors resorted for a purer air than they could find at home. But this is all; and such intimations will hardly distinguish the case of ancient Rome, from that of other large southern cities. Certainly there is nothing in them, that indicates the peculiar curse of an annual pestilence laying waste a vast territory, then quite as thickly crowded with population as the neighbourhood of London or Paris is now.

Nor are its traces to be found even at a much later date. In the times of the empire there is no doubt, from many passages in the Epitomes, in Ammianus Marcellinus, and in Procopius, that the Campagna was as full of population, as the state of the city might lead us to expect. Christian churches were opened or erected in the suburbs, in the time of Constantine and his immediate successors. The splendid tomb of St. Helena, which would not have been built remote from observation, stood where all is now an unbroken waste. Indeed, as late as the year 400, when Honorius made his way through Italy, the whole road from Oriculum, a distance of fifty miles, on twenty-five of which there are now but two human dwellings, and those supported by the government—this whole road was so completely lined with splendid houses, villas, temples, and triumphal arches, or, as Claudian happily expresses it *quicquid tante premittitur urbi*, that the Emperor imagined himself every moment approaching the gates of the capital.

Under the Papal power in the middle ages, every thing, of course, declined, and the Campagna suffered in the common decay. But still there are proofs, that it was not desolated by the Mal'aria. In the ninth century, the Popes employed themselves,

repeatedly, in enlarging and fortifying the city of Ostium, then of great consequence, and now entirely deserted. In the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, the Sciaras, the Sforzas, and the other independent feudal Chieftains, who bore sway in that part of Italy, held throughout the Campagna those massive castles, whose ruins bear constant witness to a degree of salubrity that is now unknown; while the remains of several forsaken monasteries, and two papal villas, which were chosen resorts and residences about the year 1300, prove, at least, that any inherent difficulty in the soil or atmosphere was a thing not yet apprehended.

The darkest and most disastrous period, however, that Rome has ever passed through, is that between 1305 and 1376, when the papal throne was established at Avignon. The city was then given up to the most desperate and bloody factions, under the conduct of what, in the language of the time, were well called the *famiglie* *aripotentis*, the Colonne, the Orsini, the Frangipani, and other domestic Princes and military chiefs; traces of whose residence and strength are still to be found where human habitation has long been impracticable. Nothing, perhaps, can exceed the misery they produced by their desperate quarrels. Faction succeeded to faction without an interval of repose; one ambitious family triumphed over another; and one demagogue displaced another, in such rapid succession, that it seemed as if the universal misery were fast approaching an inevitable conclusion. When, therefore, Gregory XI. returned in 1377, he found the country about Rome laid waste; he found that the suburbs had disappeared; that the walls were in many places broken down and destroyed; and that the whole of the discouraged and failing population was reduced to seventeen thousand souls; so near was the eternal city to its final fall.

From this time, and perhaps, partly in consequence of this melancholy desolation, we begin to find notices of what is now called the Mal'aria. In 1406, when Gregory XII. was elected, we are expressly told by a contemporary, that he did not establish himself at the Lateran, where his predecessors had resided, while the air was not unhealthy—*dum aer non infectus*; so that it must have been something recent. The villa Magliana, a favourite residence of Leo X. six miles from Rome, where he was seized with the illness of which he died in 1521, has been considered an infected spot ever since his time. The Vatican has been accounted positively unsafe since the conclave of 1623; and at every protracted election of a Pope, which has happened during the two past centuries in the months of August and September, there has been a remarkable mortality among the Cardinals and their attendants. Since 1710, the Palatine, the Circus Maximus, the Forum, the Baths of Dioclesian, the Colosseum, and, indeed, the whole of those portions of the city, where ancient Rome chiefly stood, have been quite abandoned to the Mal'aria. Very few buildings remain there, and none have been erected, so that from the Viminal round by the Lateran, and by the Baths of Antoninus to the Aventine, the whole must soon become an absolute desert.

At the same time, however, that the site of ancient Rome has been thus silently given up, the heart of the modern city and its very best portions have been gradually invaded. The Piazza Navona, the Ripetta, and the Quirinal began to be dangerous above a hundred years ago, and the last has since become absolutely unsafe during the hottest months, so that, even for a century, the coming doom of Rome may be considered as having been inscribed on its walls, distinctly enough to have been understood by those, who well regarded the signs of the times. But within the last fifty years, when observation has been more accurate, this doom has been more apparent. This annual pestilence, which had so long reigned unmolested in the southern portion of the city, has, within that time, intruded from the north. The Villa Borghese, the most ample and magnificent of the Roman country houses, which was built in the seventeenth century, just outside the Porta del Popolo, and which, during the greater part of the eighteenth, was the scene of more luxury and splendour, than almost any spot in Italy, has, for above forty years, been considered infected, and is now suffered to fall to ruin. The upper part of the Corso, and the Piazza di Spagna, to which strangers resort, and always have resorted in modern times, as the healthiest part of the city, have not been entirely safe since the beginning of the present century, and are thought annually to grow worse. The public walk, which the French constructed hardly twenty years ago on the site, or nearly on the site, of the luxurious gardens of Sallust and Lucullus, must already be avoided during the evenings of the months of August and September. The beautiful Villa Ludovisi, in the same quarter, has been no more safe during the last thirty years, but the French Academy of Painting, though separated from it only by a public way, was never invaded till the summer of 1817, and has been condemned as dangerous, only since the death of several of the pupils in 1818.

Thus the last of the Roman hills, and the portion of the city, which through a succession of ages, has been the chosen seat of its luxury, is now become the victim of the Mal'aria; so that from the Vatican to the Lateran, and from the Villa Borghese to the gate of St. Paul, there is no longer any considerable space from which those, who are able, do not escape during the hot months, and only very small portions, where, from some unexplained cause, this mysterious pestilence has not yet intruded. Outside of the walls, or in the deserted parts within them, no person will do more than pass rapidly on during the dangerous season, who can possibly avoid it.

On the final result of such a state of things, it is, of course, impossible to shut our eyes. The Mal'aria has been for four centuries constantly extending its ravages. It is a contest that has been for ages every year renewed, and every year followed by a signal defeat. The whole Campagna has been laid waste by it; three fourths of the space within the walls of the city have been given up to its desolation; and even in the remainder, though crowded with churches that would be cathedrals elsewhere, and with palaces such as transalpine kings do not dwell in, the unseen pestilence still goes forth unmolested. It is not, indeed, for human foresight to fix the dates of empires and cities; but it is more in the spirit of history than of prophecy to say, that Rome

must one day become what Pastum and Volterra are now.

How soon this solemn consummation must take place, we could perhaps almost determine, if we knew what is the cause of the Mal'aria. But this has been reserved among the darkest of nature's secrets. Whether it be, as some have supposed, an exhalation from waters hidden far under the surface, and therefore to be avoided, as one of the cardinals has wisely suggested, by literally paving the whole of the countless acres of the Campagna; or whether it be from the volcanic materials of the soil, which, after decaying for thousands of years, have at last reached the point, when, under the influences of the summer's heat, and the action of the sea air, a noxious gas is developed; or whether it be from any other of the many causes which have been suggested, or from all put together, we have, notwithstanding the discussions that have been carried on, no means to determine. Chemistry detects no difference between the air, that, during the months of August and September, destroys life in the Campagna, and the air which elsewhere is life's support and nourishment.

All we know, therefore, of the Mal'aria is from its effects; and nothing can be more solemn than the exhibition the Campagna gives us of its long continued power. The eye wanders over its boundless waste without finding any other horizon, than that formed by the gentle undulations, which every where break without relieving its melancholy monotony. Frequently not a house, nor a tree, nor a sign of human habitation or life is to be seen for many miles. And yet, here once lived the hardy and warlike tribes of the Fidenates and the Coriolani. Here was the crowd of population, that found no place in Rome in the time of the republic. Here was no small portion of the splendour of the Empire. And, finally, here resided the strength of a proud barbarism in the middle ages, when the contest between the Orsini, the Sciaras, the Savelli, and other rude chieftains, in their castles without the city, and the ecclesiastical usurpation within, remained so long undecided.

Hac tunc nomina erant, nunc sunt sine nomine terra.

And yet there is little in the Campagna to recall the deserts, which nature has elsewhere left or created in her works, since these melancholy wastes owe their power over the feelings and the imagination less to their present condition, than to the recollections and associations they awaken. For the heavens above them are of the most undisturbed and transparent blue. The sun shines with the purest and whitest light. The wind blows with the softest and most exhilarating freshness. The very vegetation is so rich and abundant, so wantonly luxuriant, that it seems as if nature were wooing man to cultivation; as if this must be one of the very chosen spots of all the earth for human habitation and happiness. But the mind refuses to rest on all this. The past and the future prevail over the present. It is impossible not to recollect, that this serene sky and brilliant sun, which should inspire such confidence, serve only to develop the noxious qualities of the soil; that the air which breathes so gently is as fatal as it is balmy; and that this abundant vegetation is composed only of gross and lazy weeds, such as may be fitly nourished by exhalations so deadly. Or, if it were possible, for a moment, to drive away thoughts like these, the few intimations of human life and power that are visible, would recall others even more sad. The remains of an ancient aqueduct stretching its numberless arches through the waste, would recall the multitudes who once found health in its waters. The occasional fragments of the rude architecture of the middle ages, would give to the long interval that has elapsed, since the last possessors of the soil were compelled to desert it. Or a gibbet, still bearing the shrunk and blackened remains of some miserable wretch, whom this very desolation has tempted to guilt, or a few savage shepherds, decrepit in youth, pale, haggard, and livid, who, indeed, may have survived the poison of one season, but have hardly courage enough left to ask strength from heaven to drag their weary existence beyond another, would still announce the whole waste as the peculiar abode of desolation and death.

These are the feelings and impressions, which prevail over all others in the deserts of the Campagna. Rome, indeed, with the cupola of St. Peter's and the tomb of Adrian, may rise gradually in the horizon, like a glorious apparition. But Rome, too, is already within the influence of that mysterious agent, which is spread every where around the remains of its temples and tombs, as an invisible enemy, whose approach no intimation announces, and no power can resist. That this enemy will at last triumph, its past progress does not permit us to doubt. Rome herself already stands in widowed greatness amidst the desolations of the Campagna; and its soil, which for so many centuries teemed with splendour and power, seems now to be emancipating itself by its own secret energies, and demanding to lie fallow of glory as many ages as it bore its burthen.

COWPER'S CORRESPONDENCE.

Extracts from letters to the Rev. John Newton.

"You wish you could employ your time to better purpose, yet are never idle. In all that you say or do; whether you are alone, or pay visits, or receive them; whether you think or write, or walk or sit still; the state of your mind is such as discovers even to yourself, in spite of all its wanderings, that there is a principle at bottom whose determined tendency is towards the best things. I do not at all doubt the truth of what you say, when you complain of that crowd of trifling thoughts that pesters you without ceasing; but then you always have a serious thought standing at the door of your imagination, like a justice of peace with the riot-act in his hand, ready to read it, and disperse the mob. Here lies the difference between you and me. My thoughts are clad in a sober livery, for the most part as grave as that of a bishop's servants. They turn too upon spiritual subjects, but the tallest fellow and the loudest among them all, is he who is continually crying with a loud voice, *Actum est de te, peristi*. You wish for more attention, I for less. Dissipation itself would be welcome to me, so it were not a vicious one; but however earnestly invited, it is coy, and keeps at a distance. Yet with all this distressing

gloom upon my mind, I experience, as you do, the slipperiness of the present hour, and the rapidity with which time escapes me. Every thing round us, and every thing that befalls us, constitutes a variety, which, whether agreeable or otherwise, has still a thievish propensity, and steals from us days, months, and years, with such unparalleled address, that even while we say they are here, they are gone. From infancy to manhood is rather a tedious period, chiefly, I suppose, because at that time we act under the control of others, and are not suffered to have a will of our own. But thence downward into the vale of years, is such a declivity, that we have just an opportunity to reflect upon the steepness of it, and then find ourselves at the bottom."

"I have no objection in the world to your conveying a copy to Dr. Johnson; though I well know that one of his pointed sarcasms, if he should happen to be displeased, would soon find its way into all companies, and spoil the sale. He writes, indeed, like a man that thinks a great deal, and that sometimes thinks religiously; but report informs me that he has been severe enough in his animadversions upon Dr. Watts, who was, nevertheless, if I am in any degree a judge of verse, a man of true poetical ability; careless, indeed, for the most part, and inattentive too often to those niceties which constitute elegance of expression, but frequently sublime in his conceptions, and masterly in his execution. Pope, I have heard, had placed him once in the Dunciad; but, on being advised to read before he judged him, was convinced that he deserved other treatment, and thrust somebody's blockhead into the gap, whose name, consisting of a monosyllable, happened to fit it. Whatever faults, however, I may be chargeable with as a poet, I cannot accuse myself of negligence. I never suffer a line to pass till I have made it as good as I can; and though my doctrines may offend this king of critics, he will not, I flatter myself, be disgusted by slovenly inaccuracy, either in the numbers, rhymes, or language. Let the rest take its chance. It is possible he may be pleased; and if he should, I shall have engaged on my side one of the best trumpeters of the kingdom. Let him only speak as favourably of me as he has spoken of Sir Richard Blackmore, (who, though he shines in the poem called *Creation*, has written more absurdities in verse than any writer of our country,) and my success will be secured."

"Retirement grows, but more slowly than any of its predecessors. Time was when I could with ease produce fifty, sixty, or seventy lines in a morning; now I generally fall short of thirty, and am sometimes forced to be content with a dozen. It consists at present, I suppose, of between six and seven hundred; so that there are hopes of an end."

"I am glad to be undeceived respecting the opinion I had been erroneously led into on the subjects of Johnson's criticism on Watts. Nothing can be more judicious, or more characteristic of a distinguishing taste, than his observations upon that writer; though I think him a little mistaken in his notion, that divine subjects have never been poetically treated with success. A little more Christian knowledge and experience would perhaps enable him to discover excellent poetry, upon spiritual themes, in the aforesaid little Doctor. I perfectly acquiesce in the propriety of sending Johnson a copy of my productions; and I think it would be well to send it in our joint names, accompanied with a handsome card, such an one as you will know how to fabricate, and such as may predispose him to a favourable perusal of the book, by coaxing him into a good temper; for he is a great peer, with all his learning and penetration."

Statistical.

Military appropriations for 1824.—On the 10th of March, the President of the United States approved of an act making the following appropriations for the Military service of the United States during the year 1824.

Pay of the army and subsistence of officers,	\$994,407 05
Subsistence,	290,947 00
Forage for officers,	36,123 00
Recruiting service,	29,400 00
Contingent expenses of recruiting,	16,800 00
Purchasing Department,	141,627 39
Purchase for Woolens in advance for 1825,	20,000 00
Medical and Hospital Department,	32,700 00
Quarter Master General's Department,	284,000 00
Purchase of Gridley's farm,	10,000 00
Contingencies of the Army,	15,000 00
National Armories,	360,000 00
Current expenses of Ordnance service,	42,000 00
Revolutionary Pensions,	1,291,716 39
Invalid and Commutation Pensions, and Widows and Orphans,	313,174 42
Arrears in the War Department,	26,000 00
Total,	\$3,903,895 45

From the Liverpool (Eng.) Mercury.

State of Slavery in the West Indies.	1817	1820—1	Decrease.
Antigua,	32,269	31,053	1,216
Beribice,	23,725	23,480	245
Demerara,	77,862	77,376	486
Dominica,	17,937	16,534	1,403
Grenada,	28,024	25,677	2,347
Jamaica,	347,069	341,862	5,207
Montserrat,	6,610	6,505	105
Nevis,	9,693	9,261	432
St. Kitt's,	20,137	19,817	320
St. Lucia,	15,893	13,794	2,099
St. Vincent,	25,355	24,252	1,103
Tobago,	15,470	14,581	889
Trinidad,	25,941	23,437	2,504
Virgin Islands,	6,899	6,167	732
Barbadoes,	77,498	78,845	1,347
Total,	730,517	713,461	17,056

Military Academy.—From a document recently laid before the House of Representatives by the Secretary of War, it appears, that the number of Cadets admitted

into the Institution during the year 1823, was 97; the number who completed a regular course of study and instruction in that year, 35—all of whom received commissions in the army; and that the number discharged, or permitted to leave within that year, was 53. The number of Cadets at present at the Institution is 100.

COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES.
Statement of the commerce of each State and Territory, commencing on the first of October, 1822, and ending on the 30th of September, 1823.

STATES.	Total value of imports.	Total value of exports.
Maine	891,644	891,644
New-Hampshire	371,770	371,770
Massachusetts	17,607,160	17,607,160
Vermont	62,342	62,342
Rhode Island	1,412,953	1,412,953
Connecticut	456,463	456,463
New-York	29,421,349	29,421,349
New-Jersey	5,933	5,933
Pennsylvania	13,086,770	13,086,770
Delaware	60,124	60,124
Maryland	4,946,179	4,946,179
District of Columbia	275,083	275,083
Virginia	681,810	681,810
North Carolina	183,958	183,958
South Carolina	2,419,101	2,419,101
Georgia	670,703	670,703
Louisiana	4,283,125	4,283,125
Alabama	125,770	125,770
Ohio	161	161
Michigan Territory	2,159	2,159
Florida Territory	4,808	4,808
Total	77,579,267	77,579,267

Advertisements.

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Subscriptions for the above work, received by the publisher of the Star, on the subject, post paid, may be addressed to John S. Meehan, Washington City, D. C. or the Rev. Spencer H. Cone, New-York.

Feb. 28.—

TO THE HUMAN

INFORMATION is requested by the Editor, respecting a coloured female, named JANE DICK, who was clandestinely taken from Frederick county, Virginia, about years ago, and who, it is believed, is illegally bondage. Circumstances lead to the opinion that she was taken to the State of New-York. If living, it is supposed she is about twenty or twenty-two years of age. Any person who shall give information to the Editor, either by letter or otherwise, that lead to a knowledge of this unfortunate female's condition, will render a service to the cause of humanity.

Letters on the subject should be addressed to the subscriber, near Orleans, Fauquier county, Virginia.

It is hoped that Printers in Tennessee, in the adjoining States, will be induced to publish the above, for the purpose of aiding the restoration of a fellow being to the blessed liberty.

3t.

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